

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims.

Listing of Claims

- 1-21. (Cancelled)
22. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a polynucleotide encoding SEQ ID NO:2; and
 - (b) SEQ ID NO:1.
23. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 22, wherein said polynucleotide is (a).
24. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 22, wherein said polynucleotide is (b).
25. (Previously presented) A method for making a recombinant vector comprising inserting the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 22 into a vector.
26. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid sequence fully complementary to the nucleic acid molecule of claim 22.
27. (Previously presented) A recombinant vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 22.
28. (Previously presented) The recombinant vector of claim 27, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably associated with a heterologous regulatory sequence that controls gene expression.
29. (Previously presented) A recombinant host cell comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 22.

30. (Previously presented) The recombinant host cell of claim 29, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably associated with a heterologous regulatory sequence that controls gene expression.

31-39. (Canceled)

40. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting *Staphylococcus aureus* comprising:
under stringent hybridization conditions
^(a) contacting a biological sample with the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 22; and
^(b) detecting the presence or absence of *Staphylococcus aureus* in the sample.

41. (Canceled)